

WABASH RIVER ONLY A PAST

Days as Highway for Trade by Steamboat and Pole Craft Ended. Stream Disappears.

ONCE A COMMERCE ARTERY

Vessels Piled From Lafayette, Ind., to New Orleans Loaded With Goods Up to 1870.

Mount Carmel, Ill.—In the early days of Eastern Illinois and Western Indiana the Wabash River played a very important part. It was for many years the best way of getting to market, and with the early settlers boating became a considerable business.

Produce of all kinds was sent from every landing along the river for hundreds of miles, by flatboat, to New Orleans, and with each spring rise an immense fleet of these craft would go out to the Ohio on the long voyage to the far south.

Keel boats were used in upstream freighting and passenger traffic. They were model-bow boats, propelled by bar, pole and sail, or hauled by ropes, and one would make the trip up from New Orleans in two to four months.

With the rapid growth of population and productiveness of the country steamboats soon followed. Keel boating rapidly declined, but the old-fashioned flatboat long held its own and was seen every season, though in slowly diminishing number, as late as 1878.

Since that time a flatboat has been a rarity on the Wabash.

Navigation of the river in early days was a matter of vital interest. It was the only practicable outlet to the markets for products of the time, and up to the Civil War New Orleans held the bulk of trade from the Wabash Valley.

Soon after 1830 steamboating rapidly grew to great proportions. For a time a great obstacle was the grand rapids just above this city, which soon led to the building of the dam here by a navigation company. This left the Grand Chain and Little Chain Rocks the worst places below Terre Haute, thought every bend was thorny with heavy snags that were a constant menace and were often fatal to the steamers.

Large vessels of a heavy tonnage came from New Orleans, Louisville and Cincinnati in high water, going as far up as Lafayette, and a great trade was thus conducted for twenty years. A steamboat of 1845 looked little like those of modern times, but the old boats were "palatial" inside, would carry great cargoes, and as long as they did not blow up or buck against a sawyer, made money.

As the country began to settle up the towns took much freight business off the river, however, and with the close of the war, railroads quickly absorbed the remainder of the traffic. By 1870 very little was left of the steamboat era on the Wabash river, though for ten years after there was a fair business carried on between Evansville, New Harmony, Grayville, Mount Carmel and way landings.

Excitement and glory of the old Wabash steamboat days are gone. The river has degenerated to a mere desert water course, nearly dry, ice blocked in disastrous floods for nine or ten months of every year.

The lives of the early Wabash Valley people were strenuous, with few amusements, and almost no schools for years. An occasional house or barn burning, log rolling or quilting frolic was anticipated with widespread interest. Corn shucking and shooting matches were more frequent, but most local.

But nothing stirred the country as far and wide as an announcement of a wedding. That was a momentous event which drew everyone for twenty, thirty or forty miles, and care money and carnival would last for several days and nights, terminating only with complete exhaustion and departure of the guests.

EGG-SIGNAL FREES MAN LOCKED IN HEN COOP

Inventor Is Rescued Through Novel Device That Tells When Fowl End Labors.

Tarrytown, N. Y.—An "egg signal" invented by Willis Odell came to his aid after he had been a prisoner for more than an hour in his chicken coop.

Because of the fact that eggs were bringing high prices, Odell invented a scheme to keep track of his hen's lay. He placed an electrical contrivance in the coop, and as each hen stepped out of the nest a bell would ring in the house and Odell would have the egg and get the hen.

With his son he was working a some repairs in the coop and sent the boy on an errand. As the youngster stepped out he allowed the door to close and the lock snapped. Odell found that he was a prisoner. He tried in vain to get out, then remembered his bell system and put it into operation to call his wife. Mrs. Odell was puzzled, but after the bell had been ringing steadily for a half hour she decided to investigate. She then saw her husband's face at the coop window.

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FRANZ JOSEPH FINDS BOZANOVITCH IS "MAN OF HOUR" WITH SERBIANS



Emperor Franz Joseph, on his charger, and Miles Bozanovitch.

Emperor Franz Joseph has found that the real "man of the hour" opposing the moves in resistance to the Austrian troops dispatched against Serbia is not the infirm King Peter nor the crown prince, but Miles Bozanovitch, the Serbian war minister. He looms as the central figure in the Austro-Serb war.



DO NOT BE A LEANER.

Power is the goal of every worthy ambition, and only weakness comes from imitation or dependence on others. Power is self-developed, self-generated. We cannot increase the strength of our muscles by sitting in a gymnasium and letting another exercise for us.

Nothing else so destroys the power to stand alone as the habit of leaning upon others. If you lean, you will never be strong or original. Stand alone or bury your ambition to be somebody in the world.

The man who tries to give his children a start in the world so that they will not have so hard a time as he had, is unknowingly bringing disaster upon them. What he calls giving them a start will probably give them a setback in the world. Young people need all the motive power they can get. They are naturally leaners, imitators, copiers, and it is easy for them to develop into echoes, imitations. They will not walk alone while you furnish crutches; they will lean upon you just as long as you will let them.

REFRESHMENT.

When we reach the place where a measure of happiness is, we must not overpass it, thinking we shall some day return in fuller leisure. We shall not pass this way again, and if we did we could not find that hidden place. Nor must we hasten on with hot desire, deeming we shall reach some other spot of more satisfying happiness further down the way. We may reach that place at the beginning of the journey, while we are still keen for the quest, or it may be after some years. But whenever be the time, it behooves us to pause and consider well the spot. One finds cloistered retreat and place of happiness in art or research, ill-rewarded, unacknowledged; in perfecting knowledge; in achieving beauty. Another finds it in one woman. Happiness is found in the home, in devotion to purposes larger than the individual life, wherever there is space for the heart to overspread other lives. There is refreshment in the majesty and tenderness of the natural world—in the turbulence of the sea, the rapid light touching the waves, in the plenty of autumnal harvests, in the calm of infinite hills.—Collier's.

A man will give up a dollar for a fifty-cent article that he wants, and a woman will give up forty-nine cents for an article that she doesn't want—and there you are.

ANIMAL BAROMETERS.

The tortoise is not an animal one would naturally fix upon as likely to be afraid of rain, but it is singularly so. Twenty-four hours or more before rain falls the Galapagos tortoise makes for some convenient shelter. On a bright, clear morning, when not a cloud is to be seen, the dozens of a tortoise farm on the African coast, may be seen sometimes heading for the nearest overhanging rocks.

When that happens the proprietor knows that rain will come down during the day, and as a rule it comes down in torrents. The sign never fails.

This presentation, to coin a word, which exists in many birds and beasts, may be explained partly from the increasing weight of the atmosphere when rain is forming, partly by habits of living and partly from the need of moisture which is shared by all.

The catbird gives warning of an approaching thunder storm by sitting on the low branches of a tree, uttering curious notes. Other birds, including the familiar robin, it is said, give similar evidence of an impending change in the weather.

Coal Dust Explosions.

As a precaution against coal dust explosions Prof. William Galloway said that if the coal dust in a roadway is a mine were regularly strewn with a sufficient amount of water of crystallization, or with much larger proportions of the dust of clay, slate, limestone, chalk or other substances, it would be rendered quite as innocuous as if it were damped with water.

Latin-American Excesses.

No modern tropical people perhaps, except the Chilians, are outright drunkards. Still, often talk of the temperance of Mediterranean peoples. As a matter of fact, many men in Latin America die in middle life from heart and circulation diseases of a type rarely seen here—from excessive and continuous consumption of coffee and cigarettes.

Wagner's Bickering.

Even the amazing and sea-sick genius of Wagner was given to the gentle art of bickering to beat the band. Spencer, Darwin, Melancthon and Nietzsche had all sorts of theories and notions about music, but neither only, for they never saw music as we do in Gotham. Gee whis! They only heard it.

More Useful.

The president of an ocean steamship company was taking a journey across the water. When the ship was in a dangerous channel he became engaged in conversation with the pilot, an elderly man, who had spent most of his life on the water. The president of the company remarked: "I suppose you know all about the dangerous places in this channel?" "Nope," replied the pilot. "You don't!" exclaimed the president. "Then why are you in charge of the wheel?" "Because I know where the bad places ain't."

TWO INMATES ESCAPE FROM OSCEOLA JAIL

Cadillac, Mich.—Sheriffs in this section are looking for two prisoners who escaped from the Osceola jail today by sawing through the bars and escaping via the fire escape.

RIDES BICYCLE INTO AUTOMOBILE; MAY DIE

Saginaw, Mich.—Henry Zimmerman, 60, a retired leather merchant, may die from injuries to his spine and broken ribs, sustained when he rode a bicycle into the auto of James Wilson, of Wheeler, today.

Panama Canal Ready.
Announcement is made by Secretary of War Garrison that on August 15 the Panama canal will open for business. The first vessel to pass through will be the Cristobal, a war department steamer now at Colon. There will be no formalities on the occasion, as the formal opening will take place in March, 1915. For the present only vessels of not more than 30 feet draft will pass through. Colonel Goethals will inaugurate the commercial service.

Is 111 Years Old.
James Moran, of Grundy county, Illinois, celebrated his 111th birthday a few days ago. He was born in County Mayo, Ireland, and moved to Illinois in the early 40s.

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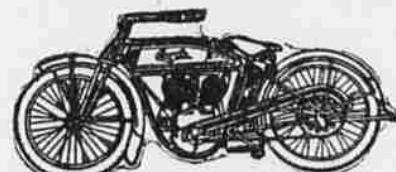
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